REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for considering the present application.

In the Final Office Action dated February 2, 2004, claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner for reconsideration.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over CSC (February 2000) in view of *Zammit* (1997). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Each of the claims has been amended to highlight the fact the present invention deals with simulation. The port idea is also set forth therein. Claim 1 is directed to a method of simulating the operation of a spacecraft that includes requesting a connection to one a plurality of simulated ground stations, generating a simulated range server name, in response to the simulated range server name, generating server location parameters and instantiating a simulated range server dedicated to a single ground station. The method further includes calculating the simulated range data for each of the plurality of simulated ground stations and providing the range data for one of the plurality of simulated ground stations. The Examiner is directed to page 2 of the present application which describes the need for the present system. This paragraph states that there is a need to simulate the operation of various ranging and antenna systems at various times to provide a complete simulation of the system. Ranging is performed in an actual application by two or more ground stations that are used to improve the determination of the position of the spacecraft.

Although the *Zammit* reference teaches that it is desirable to simulate a complete system such as ground stations, no teaching or suggestion is provided in this reference for any type of simulating a ground station. The *CSC* reference illustrates a tracking station. However, no ranging simulation is taught or suggested in this reference. The Examiner acknowledges that CSC does not detail any simulation."

On page 3 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that, "Zammit teaches ranging as part of Ground Station Mixed Simulation Test System (GSMAST) capabilities (page

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446, column 1, paragraph 5)." The Examiner further states, "However, since applicant defines ranging as 'as an actual application by two or more ground stations that are used to improve the determination of the position [of the position] (sic) of the spacecraft', it is therefore concluded that Zammit teaches ranging simulation." Applicant respectfully submits that a ranging subsystem is mentioned as being connected to the spacecraft bus. However, the *Zammit* system does not simulate multiple ground stations. As described in the background of the invention and the summary of the invention, the present invention simulates multiple ground stations. The *Zammit* reference does not provide details on the ranging information. Further, no teaching or suggestion is found for instantiating a range server dedicated to a single ground station. The Examiner had not even alleged that this step exists in the prior art. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider claim 1.
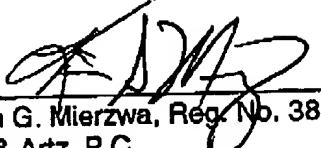
With respect to claim 7, the step of generating range, attitude and elevation data for a plurality of ground stations simultaneously is set forth. Further, identifying a desired ground station from a plurality of ground stations and providing range data for the desired ground station to a real time client is also set forth.

Claim 13 also describes the range data generator and range server. No teaching or suggestion is provided in either reference for this range data information.

The dependent claims are also allowable for the same reasons set forth above.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that all objections and rejections are now overcome. Applicant has added no new material to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place the application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney. Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0476.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin G. Mierzwa, Reg. No. 38,049
Artz & Artz, P.C.
28333 Telegraph Road, Suite 250
Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 223-9500
(248) 223-9522

Date: _____ 3/31/04 _____

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